



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

April 3, 2013

7:00 p.m.

City Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Kerry Donley, John Komoroske, Tim Lovain, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey, Maria Wasowski

Staff Present: Carrie Beach, P&Z, Karen Callaham – T&ES, Jim Maslanka – T&ES, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Raymond Mui – DASH, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Brandi Collins – P&Z

Others Present: Doug Allen, Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

The Chair called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

1. **March 6, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Mitchell asked if there were any comments or edits regarding the March 6, 2013 meeting minutes. There being no comments or edits to the minutes, a motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

2. **Funding Update**

T&ES staff, Sandra Marks reported:

City Council: Adopted resolution on March 27 authorizing City Manager to submit grant application for FTA New Freedom funds to improve access to transit for seniors/disabled.

Commonwealth Transportation Board: Governor has provided amendments to the transportation legislation (HB 2313) recently passed by the General Assembly.

DRPT: General Assembly passed legislation requiring new transit funding to be allocated based on performance. A committee was formed to develop indicators.

NVTC: On March 7, 2013 a new NVTC Executive Director was appointed.

TPB: On March 20, 2013, the Board passed a resolution to request FTA to make TPB the designated recipient for Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility Program under MAP-21.

WMATA: The Board received a presentation on why the WMATA rail ridership is below budgeted assumptions.

NVTA: On March 8, 2013, the Board approved the set of suggestions previously discussed to be sent to the Governor

New Virginia Transportation Funding: The Governor's proposed amendments to the regional taxes were: lowered hotel tax from 3% to 2%; automobile tax –1/20 of a percent each July capped at 4.15% on July 1, 2016; grantor's tax to be 15 cents/\$100; alternative fuel/hybrid vehicle tax lowered from \$100 to \$64; amending that if any locality misspends its funds, that locality will not receive new revenues the following year and instead of entire region; State/Federal grant does not count as a locality expenditure for maintenance of effort; maintenance of effort is the average annual expenditure for FY 2011-2013.

Commissioners discussed re-examining the LRP criteria and process, given the changes to the state transportation legislation and different pots for regional vs. local projects. Kevin Posey agreed to be part of the LRP Subcommittee. LRP criteria will be sent to the Commissioners. The Virginia Transportation Funding should be added as part of the meeting funding update.

3. FY 2014-23 CIP Public Hearing

T&ES staff Sandra Marks gave an overview of the DASH Efficiency Study. The City Manager presented a proposed FY 2014 budget to City Council which includes \$539.8 million for transportation / transit infrastructure; \$273 million for Potomac Yard Metrorail Station; \$56.6 million in TIP; \$20.9 million for DASH / DOT Paratransit / WMATA / VRE Operating subsidies.

The General Fund changes within the proposed budget included the following: WMATA's operating subsidy increased to base and no fare increase for new Bus Rapid Transit operating needs; DASH operating subsidy increased due to base and service expansion operating needs; cancelled implementation of the Arandria/Del Ray Shuttle; increased King Street Trolley headways from 15 minutes to 20 minutes.

Capital Investments in FY 2014 include street paving. WMATA Capital Investments are DASH Fleet Replacements; and Bus Shelter Upgrades including improved ADA accessibility. Transportation Improvement Program includes DASH Fleet and Route Expansion; continued implementation of Capital Bikeshare; update to Bicycle Master Plan; and Bus Rapid Transit.

A public hearing was held on the proposed FY 2014-23 CIP. Jonathan Krall of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Group (BPAC) recommended that the focus for bicycle improvements be on-street facilities, and trips with a purpose (transportation related). Following the hearing, a motion was made, seconded, voted on and approved to request that as part of the 2014 budget, Council include the change for increased headways to the King Street trolley to the add/delete list. However, should more funding become available, that Council maintain the current funding for the King Street trolley in order to maintain the current 15 minute headways. Also the Transportation Commission should review the add/delete version of the CIP in May and make recommendations to Council.

4. VRE FY 2014 Budget

VRE staff Doug Allen reported that the final proposed budget included estimated average daily ridership of 20,100; it maintains the current 32 trains (30 revenue); an additional 10-car Fredericksburg line train is deferred until FY 2015 (July 1, 2014); it recommends a 4% fare increase; maintains level jurisdictional subsidy of \$16.4M; there is no

increase to the City's subsidy; increases to other jurisdictions are based on the VRE riders survey; the Spotsylvania station opens January 2014; it funds high priority capital improvements, such as positive train control and new railcars. The VRE Board will adopt the FY 2014 budget at their April or May Board meeting.

5. Staff Updates

The Commission received a written staff update on the Crystal City/Potomac Yard (Route 1) Transitway, and the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station.

6. Commission Updates

A motion was made, seconded, voted on and approved for Maria Wasowski to replace Louisa Ward as the Vice Chair.

The Landmark Mall redevelopment will hold a public meeting on April 8, 2013, at the mall at 7:00 p.m.

7. Other Business

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:29 pm, seconded, and unanimously approved.